

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 14, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

In an example, monitoring system 44 includes a bar code scanner that reads the bar codes of food-related items added to and removed from storage area 40. Controller 38 advantageously accesses a database of bar codes with associated food-related item descriptions in order to identify food-related items according to bar code scanning. An infrared scanner detects the amount remaining of each food-related item. A keypad is provided for a user to enter an identifier or description of food-related items that do not include a bar code for scanning.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 23, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Portable computer system 70 includes inventory control application 50, intended food-related inventory database 52, absent food-related items 54 and food-related inventory preferences 72. Input to portable computer system 70 may be provided via input interface 98 and/or a communication[[s]] medium where an alternate data processing system[[s]] provides data. In addition, output from portable computer system 70 may be provided by output interface 99.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 24, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

With reference now to Figure. 4, there is illustrated an embodiment of a block diagram of a store inventory management system in accordance with the method, system, and program of the present invention. As depicted, each [[of]] storage area for home A 110, storage area for home B 120, remote server systems 84a-84n, universally accessible database 80 and store computer system 150 access a network 146 via a communication medium that enables bi-directional communication between the devices. Network 146 advantageously includes the Internet and other universally accessible networks, however, the network 146 may include other types of networks, such as a local area network (LAN).

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 24, line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

Storage area for home A 110 preferably monitors at least one storage area within [[a]] home A 110 and advantageously includes multiple items 112a-112n, a monitoring system 114 and a climate controller 116. Storage area for home N 120 preferably monitors at least one storage area within [[a]] home N 120 and advantageously includes multiple items 122a-122n, a monitoring system 124 and a climate controller 126.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 33, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Block 256 depicts comparing the absent food-related items for multiple households with current food-related inventory, food-related orders and inventory history. Next, block 258 illustrates a determination as to whether or not additional inventory is needed in response to the comparison. If additional inventory is not needed, then the process passes to block 262. If additional inventory is needed, then the process passes to block 260. Block 260 depicts preparing orders for additional inventory; and the process passes to block 262.